

REMARKS:

Claims 1-20 are in the case and presented for consideration.

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview of April 29, 2009 during which this application was discussed.

During that interview, it was agreed that the undersigned would amend the independent claim 1 to eliminate the functional language previously presented at the end of the claim and also correct the drawings to better illustrate the presence of the primary windings 21, 22 and the secondary winding 23 which were discussed in the specification on page 13, but only shown in Fig. 9 previously. Figs. 4 and 5 in particular, have been amended which is believed to fully illustrate the direct connection between the secondary winding of the transformer 14 and the electrodes 3, 3 in the vacuum chamber 2.

During the interview, the undersigned argued that the primary reference to Manley (U.S. Patent 5,993,613) although showing various pieces of the circuitry of the invention, does not include the very important direct connection between the secondary winding of the transformer and the electrodes in the vacuum chamber. As discussed, this direct connection has the advantageous effect of establishing "potential isolation" between the electrodes, where current peaks are likely to occur, and sensitive components in the circuitry of the invention that can be damaged by such peaks. See for example pages 4 and 5 of the specification.

It was agreed that the claims now presented patentably distinguished over the Manley reference taken alone or in combination with U.S. Patent 5,026,47 to Latz et al.

The Examiner indicated that additional searching might be necessary however.

It is believed that, in fact, the invention claimed is patentable over all the prior art currently available in this field and that accordingly, the application claims are in condition

for allowance.

If any further changes are needed to place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned in the interest of reaching a conclusion to the prosecution of this application.

Further favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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